The decline in industrial production is partially explained by massive import compression. But there are other factors such as bottlenecks in infrastructure and tight money policy.

Number of aircraft operating in India's National and International Airlines

1. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATARAMAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) what is that total number of planes with India's National and International airlines at present;

(b) what is the number out of these that are to be replaced and if so, by when;

(c) what type of plane is found suitable for flights and whether any new orders are pending for new aircraft from other countries; and

(d) what norms are followed in purchasing aircraft for commercial purposes?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : (a) The total number of planes with Air India, Indian Airlines and Vayudoot, at present, are 22, 55 and 17 respectively.

(b) Vayudoot has no immediate plans of fleet renewal, Air-India and Indian Airlines have been advised to plan for a more modern and younger fleet. However, as yet there are no firm plans for replacement of existing aircraft.

(c) In accordance with pay load and range considerations, Indian Airlines require 100-seater, 150-seater and 300-seater aircraft for its operations while Air India requires 200-seater medium range, 300-seater long range and 400-seater long range aircraft for its operations.

Indian Airlines would receive 12 A 320 aircraft in 1993-94 and Air India 4 Boeing-747-400 in 1993-94.

(d) Various aircraft meeting commercial pay-load and range criteria of the concerned airline are subjected to techno-economic evaluation by expert committees followed by investment approval by competent authorities.

Foreign Investment in India's Tourism Sector

2. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to attract foreign investment in India's tourism sector with liberal fiscal incentives;

(b) whether Government have consulted the State Government in this regard and, if so, what has been their response and what facilities they have offered; and

(c) what is the response of foreign investors in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) The Hotels and Tourism related industry is now a high priority industry and automatic approvals are available for foreign investment and collaboration within specified parameters. Various other incentives are also given to attract investment in this sector.

(b) Yes, Sir. Most of the State Government have accorded industry status to tourism and are providing various incentives/concessions to tourism sector.

(c) The response is positive.

National Park at Taj Mahal

3. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a national park is sought to be established in the Taj Mahal area at Agra, extending to Fatehpur Sikri; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In line with the Memorandum of Understanding signed on May 18, 1989 between the Department of Tourism, Government of India and the United States National Park Service, a joint concept plan would be prepared for the development of the Agra Heritage Sites. The concept is to establish guidelines and policies for development and for providing visitor services and

conservation of monuments. The core of the project is formed by the key historic structures, the Taj Mahal and the Agra Red Fort and the area across the Yamuna river designated as Mumtaj Bagh. This would also cover satellite sites like Fatehpur Sikri and Sikandra. The concept plan is under preparation by the National Park Service. Based on the recommendations of the concept plan, the State Government and the Agra Development Authority would take necessary action.

Development of Nature Tourism

4. SHRI R.T. GOPALAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are paying adequate attention towards nature tourism;

(b) if so, the places identified by Government for nature tourism;

(c) whether it is a fact that accommodation problem also persists at these nature tourism spots; and

(d) if so, the steps contemplated by Government for providing accommodation facilities there?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (d) The Government of India is paying adequate attention to all activities for promotion of tourism within the country. The development of infrastructural facilities at Tourist Centres is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, the Centre provides financial assistance on the basis of the specific proposals which are considered on their merits, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds.

Construction of Air Strip at Tigerhill, Darjeeling

5. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposed air strip to be constructed at Tigerhill, Darjeeling has not been permitted by the Central Government; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b), The proposal of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council though found feasible for setting up an airstrip of 6500 ft. × 150 ft. at Tigerhill but was not found suitable from environment angle.

Crash of Airbus A-320 in France

6. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA :
SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI :
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Director General of Civil Aviation has sent a special request to the Director of safety Airbus Industries asking them to send the preliminary report of investigation into the causes of accident involving Airbus A-320 plane which crashed recently in France;

(b) if so, whether Government have received any such report, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what safety measures Government propose to take in respect of Airbus A-320 which are in service with Indian Airlines in view of French mishap of the Airbus?

The MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : (a) Director General of Civil Aviation, India had requested Director General of Civil Aviation, France for details.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Preliminary investigation indicated possibility of confusion between the selection of vertical speed and flight path angle.